

Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission
Council Chambers
Monday April 20th, 2015
1 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Gerald Evenson, Chair
Theresa Coleman, Dennis Schuck

Staff Present: Jim Peterson, Jerod Wagner

Visitors: Autumn Johnson

Commissioner Evenson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried.

Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the minutes of the March 23rd, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried.

Persons with interest before the Commission

Mr. Rick Lamon did not appear.

A. Ms. Autumn Johnson

Ms. Johnson was on hand to discuss potential Lanesboro Public Utilities involvement in securing funds for a new ambulance shed. Ms. Johnson indicated that other communities had instituted a program called "Round Up", whereby the community may, at their discretion, round up payment of their utility bills (an example would be an average bill of \$225.55 per month could be rounded up to \$226.00 for a net gain of \$.45) with the surplus being set aside to assist in the funding of a new ambulance shed for the Lanesboro service. Commissioner Coleman asked Ms. Johnson to institute a "kick off" campaign during EMS week, May 17th-23rd of 2015. She instructed Ms. Johnson to come back to the May meeting of the PUC to discuss the potential of this program.

B. Rick Lamon

Mr. Lamon wished to address the PUC regarding new business incentives for a potential new business in town. Administrator Todd advised the Commission that Mr. Lamon wished to discuss potentially waiving water and sewer connection fees associated with the potential business. Commissioner Coleman advised tabling the request until Mr. Lamon could attend. She also indicated that whatever incentive provided by the PUC would need to be fair and equitable for the entire community.

Regular Business

A. Payables

Commissioner Coleman moved to pay expenses of the Lanesboro Public Utilities. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Evenson. Motion Carried.

B. LED Bulb/Fixtures Rebate

A citizen made a request for LED bulb and light fixture rebates from the Lanesboro PUC. The Commission advised the City Administrator to check with Tri-County Electric to see if they could provide a dollar amount of this type of improvement. Further, the Commission asked the City Administrator to see if Tri-County would be willing to administer the rebate program on behalf of the City and to what cost this would involve.

C. Lift Station Replacement (Park)

Jared Wagner brought to the Commissions attention that in a previous meeting (FY 2013) that the LPU had made repairs or had replaced the lift stations and pumps in Sylvan Park. He advised that this location was the only location in town that required a lift station due to the camping area and the dump station. He indicated that previous utility commissions had approved the cost to the park in the amount of \$2,500 per year until the nearly \$30,000 price of the pumps were paid for. LPU Superintendent Jim Peterson indicated that the pumps generally have a life span of around 5-7 years. He suggested that the park set aside funds in order to replace the pumps as needed rather than attempting to pay one lump sum moving forwards. Commissioner Coleman made a motion to advise the park to set aside \$3,500 for pump/lift replacement moving forward with the 2016 budget as needed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Evenson. Motion carried all in favor.

D. Manhole Repairs (\$15,000-2013 Budget)

Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman to set up a recurring line in the PUC budget for manhole repair in the amount of \$15,000 per year. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Evenson. Motion carried all in favor.

E. Miscellaneous Items

Lanesboro Arts Center extended an invitation to the PUC to attend special event recognizing support for the Lanesboro Arts Campus initiative. The event will be on May 9th, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the upper level of the St. Mane Theatre.

Jared Wagner indicated that the Lanesboro Photovoltaic Project will be re-started again for FY 2015. He indicated that he will again propose including Tri-County and whomever else wished

to participate. Commissioner Coleman advised that Wagner look into engineering firms to see if they work with small cities on renewable energy.

Commissioner Coleman asked the City Administrator to include account balances for utilities at the next PUC meeting in May, 2015. Similarly, Wagner asked to place UUMEG on the next agenda as well.

Next Regular Meeting: May 18, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

Commissioner Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Schuck. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.